

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday February 6, 2023
Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Cleveland, Chair
Deputy Mayor Mike Bartlett, Vice Chair
Councillor Peter Turnbull
Councillor Paul Saulnier
Councillor William McCormick

STAFF PRESENT : Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Executive Assistant

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. PUBLIC HEARING

B.1 None.

C. AGENDA

C.1 Additions/Deletions

One addition to the Agenda under New Business J.8 NSFM Spring Workshop Representative

C.2 Approval

Motion

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Agenda for February 6, 2023 be as approved with one additions under New Business J.8 NSFM Spring Workshop Representative.

Motion Carried.

D. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

D.1 None.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

E.1 January 9, 2023

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the Minutes of January 9, 2023 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1 New Year's Levee alternative events

Mayor Cleveland said that no planning work or thoughts for an alternative Event at this time however give it some thought and it can be discussed over the summer.

F.2 Council Planning Session Date

Mayor Cleveland is working on having a speaker come in for the planning session it will likely be late February or early March. Agenda items so far will be Mount Street School and the VIC. Council asked if the Mayor had reached out to the parties that expressed interest in the Mount Street School at this time only one of the two interested parties will likely discuss. Perhaps we should invite ACOA to that session as well it might be more a challenge for those folks with our session likely on a weekend.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Chief Administrative Officer Report

The Chief Administrative Officer was presented. The date for the upcoming tax sale has been set for March 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM there is only one property on the list for sale. Laura Lee Milner was the successful candidate for the by law Enforcement Officer position and began work today. The District of Digby has now appointed Chris Thibodeau as the Fire Inspector the Town of Digby needs to appoint him as our fire inspector. We will continue to keep the appointment of Ryan LeBlanc and Daniel Gaudet as backup inspectors.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Town of Digby Appoint Chris Thibodeau of the Municipality of Digby as the Fire Inspector.

Motion Carried.

The Code of Conduct working group is doing a second round of consultation which will focus on sanctions that can be imposed pending a breach of the code and options related to the investigator model process. The second round of sessions will take place virtual and in-person. The CAO has placed the material on the Digby Cloud for viewing which includes the schedule. The former provincial VIC on Shore Road was discussed to ensure that the CAO was understanding that the Digby VIC will be relocating to Shore Road and in order for this to happen there will be things that will have to happen such as internet, phone services established before the move can happen May will be here before we realize. Mayor Cleveland suggested that the VIC Committee should come together for another meeting in the next week or so.

G.2 Committee of the Whole Report

There are three recommendations coming forward from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Bartlett that the Administrative Scent Free Policy be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the HR Scent Free Policy be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Administrative Policy #2014-01 Disposal of Surplus School Property be amended as presented.

Motion Carried.

G.3 Digby Area Tourism Association

The Report was circulated in the package. Deputy Mayor Bartlett mentioned that there is a DATA meeting coming up February 8th.

G.4 Digby Fire Committee

The Digby Fire Committee had two meetings one was a site tour of the current facility and the other was the formal meeting. Councillor Saulnier thought that the site tour was very interesting to see what they are working with and the facility. They have adapted in their space however this space likely won't accommodate for the future trucks are becoming taller and more equipment is needed.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the Digby Fire Committee Minutes be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

G.5 Waste Check Report

Councillor Saulnier mentioned that the demand for green carts is still going strong and another order was required. The original carts are reaching the end of their life span and that is likely why some of the carts are breaking.

G.6 Digby Area Recreation Commission Report

The report was distributed in the meeting package. In chatting with the speed skating folks there will be a three day try it event to see if there is interest in this for the area. Councillor Saulnier spoke about the community use of schools it would seem that Rupert Haley who had the knowledge of the equipment there is no longer interested in running it. His daughter Susie would like to learn the system and is also interested in taking the fall arrest training that is required. The community folks don't have the welcoming feeling when using the space. Perhaps drafting a letter to the school might help.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

H.1 Municipal Affairs and Housing- Minister Lohr

Minister Lohr responded to our letter of November 25th for the request for a time extension of the submission of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By Law (LUB) the request was granted however with conditions that we adopt the mandatory requirement for a policy involving consultation with abutting municipalities by May 31 and provide the Provincial Director of Planning with an approximate schedule outlining milestones for the completion of the revised MPS and LUB the conditional extension date is March 31, 2024.

H.2 Fibromyalgia Awareness Day

Fibromyalgia Awareness Day is May 12th they are asking if we would light up the Digby Town Hall to raise awareness of fibromyalgia from dusk on May 12 to dawn on May 13.

H.3 NSUARB Boundary Review

The NSUARB sent correspondence asking for a date for availability for a hearing. This hearing will be virtual and would commence at 10:00 AM in the past these have taken less than 1 hour to complete. They are proposing the week of June 13 to June 16th. Councillor McCormick asked that perhaps not pick the Tuesday all other dates seemed fine.

H.4 Office of the Deputy Minister of Public Works-Socioeconomic study ferry service

The CAO received this correspondence from the Office of the Deputy Minister regarding the Comprehensive socioeconomic study on the value and impacts of the investment in the ferry service from Maine to Nova Scotia. The Province is having frank discussions about whether a ferry is the best investment or whether there are alternative investments that could generate more significant economic activity. They are asking for feedback on this approach by February 17, 2023. Deputy Mayor Bartlett will bring this up at the DATA meeting.

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 None.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Appointment of Fire Inspector

This item was done under the Chief Administrative Officer Report

J.2 African Heritage Gala

According to the organizers the event has sold out we can still offer to purchase a table for \$180.00 as a donation towards the event.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that Council purchase a table for \$180.00 for the African Heritage Gala Event.

Motion Carried.

J.3 Shore Road Property Interest

Waylon Mosher has sent written correspondence regarding the property at 237 Shore Road. Waylon was made aware that it will be coming to the market and that we will be looking for fair market value. Once the property is listed on the market we should consider a specific number of days to allow all those who are interested in bidding to have a chance.

J.4 CIBC Banking Resolution

This banking resolution is coming forward tonight due to the change with the High Interest Saving Account that we had through MFC no longer being offered we needed to set up an independent agreement with a bank for this saving the Director of Finance was able to secure an interest rate with the CIBC that other banks couldn't or wouldn't match. The Scotiabank however will remain as the day to day bank of the Town of Digby.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Saulnier that the CIBC General Banking Resolution be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried.

J.5 Scotiabank General Banking Resolution

This is the time for a new banking resolution to appoint Scotiabank as our banking service provider.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor Turnbull that the Scotiabank Banking Resolution be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried.

J.6 FCM Conference Attendance

The FCM Conference this year will be held in Toronto from May 25 to May 28th we have done some research into accommodations and flights. Flights are very reasonable in price hotels tend to be on the most costly side however once FCM blocks of rooms becomes available they may have a better nightly rate than just the Expedia rate. The policy in place allows for the Mayor and two Councillors and the CAO to attend if there is interest. Council is encouraged to have a look at the program and decide if this is something that they wish to attend before the room block is released.

J.7 Former TVT Park-Snow Owl Engineering

Snow Owl has done a plan for the former TVT park design engineering currently in the Capital Budget we have \$10,000 the engineering plan being proposed from Snow Owl is for almost double that. The CAO said that we can budget for the additional costs for this expenditure in the next capital budget. This work will have to be done before any grant money can be sought. The design work of the park will require Council input. Deputy Mayor Bartlett would like to seek funding for this project from the Health Authority Foundation. Mayor Cleveland is meeting with those folks tomorrow and will mention this project to them to see if there might be interest in partnering. Council decided to move this item to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

J.8 NSFAM Spring Workshop

Deputy Mayor Bartlett is the Spring Work Shop Committee Chair. This area will be responsible for the social event on Thursday night. The Deputy Mayor will seek funding assistance from all municipal units in the Tri Counties to help cover those costs.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

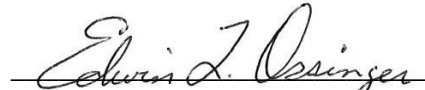
Motion:

Motion for adjournment was moved by Councillor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick at 7:14 P.M.

Motion Carried.



Mayor



Clerk